



Abraham Lincoln

February 13, 1809 – April 15, 1865

"You cannot help man permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves"

February 16, 2012, ECCC Community Meeting

There is a lot going on this month. We have the vote on the Crawford/Mann Schools (see article below), which takes place after we have heard from our guest speakers:

Our first guest speaker is SDSU Assistant Professor Amy Schmitz Weiss. Her topic is:

SDSU Wants to Hear from You: Seeking Focus Group Participants!

San Diego State University is conducting focus groups this spring with citizens from the campus community. We would like to hear from you! The subject of the focus groups will be on the topic of mobile applications on smartphones and their uses in daily life for news and entertainment. You must own a mobile device (smartphone is required) in order to participate. The focus groups will last two hours. A \$20 gift card will be provided to participants at the end of the focus group session. Parking will be provided as well. Please contact SDSU Assistant Professor Amy Schmitz Weiss at aschmitz@mail.sdsu.edu by **February 10, 2012**.

Our second speaker is: Virginia Martin, Volunteer Publicity Co-Chair, Rolando Community Council:

16th Annual Rolando Street Fair "Make a Wish Baby!" Do those lyrics ring a bell? They will when you see Ambrosia playing at the 16th Annual Rolando Street Fair on Sunday, March 25th. Their huge hits, "Biggest Part of Me," "You're the Only Woman," and "How Much I Feel" will have the entire community dancing in the street!

The Rolando Street Fair has become a real music event in San Diego. Band Coordinator Stephanie Bonner continues to use her influence to attract big names and local favorites to our event. In addition to Ambrosia, the music line-up includes Lee Coulter, Steph Johnson, Cathryn Beeks, and Len Rainey and the Midnight Players.

Over 100 vendor booths and non-profit community organizations will entice you with delicious food, hand-made items, and services. In addition, there is a Kid's Corner with rides and activities.

The Rolando Community Council (RCC) produces this event. Financial support of over \$10,000 from the San Diego City Arts and Culture Commission and Marti Emerald's 7th District Council Office make it possible. We salute both offices for supporting this celebration of our community. We also recognize our partners in production, the College Area Business Improvement District and the College Neighborhoods Foundation. They too are essential. And finally, our thanks to the many Rolando volunteers whose hard work makes this event a success year after year. It wouldn't happen without you.

More volunteers are needed on the day of the Street Fair and to distribute advance flyers and posters. If you can assist in either activity, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Supi Bhullar 619-796-5585 or bhullar.supi@gmail.com. For more information and vendor applications, please visit www.rolandocommunitycouncil.org. So mark your calendars now for Sunday, March 25 from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. The event occurs on Rolando Blvd. between El Cajon Blvd. and Solita Avenue. "Like" us on Facebook at Rolando Street Fair.

Proposed Letter to Public Officials Concerning Facilities Plans for Crawford High School and Mann Middle School

Members attending the January 19 community meeting voted to place this item on the agenda for the February 16 meeting: a letter to government officials concerning plans for new and upgraded facilities at Crawford High School and Horace Mann Middle School. The ECCC Board of Directors is presenting the following options for the proposed letter:

Recipients List

San Diego Unified School District

Superintendent of Schools

Facilities Planning and Construction Department

Board of Education Office

Individual Board of Education Members

Introduction:

With bond funds approved in Proposition S, the San Diego Unified School District has been developing plans for new and upgraded facilities at Crawford High School and Mann Middle School in the community of El Cerrito. Along with new and upgraded classrooms and offices, these plans include upgrades to athletic facilities, including stadium lights at the Crawford football field, relocated south of Trojan Avenue, east of Sharron Place. *Members of the El Cerrito Community Council [will vote] to make the following recommendations for Proposition S bond spending at local schools:*

During the Prop S election the citizens of San Diego were told that Prop S was to be a continuation of Prop MM and that by approving the measure we were approving continuing a property tax assessment on our homes for dollars that were to be spent on improvements to the school that would renovate and upgrade classrooms to provide the chance for a better education in state of the art classrooms for Career/Vocational Programs that teach “real world” job skills, wire every classroom and school for WiFi and the Internet, with technology upgrades for every school in every neighborhood as well as help with health and safety upgrades such as removal of hazardous asbestos and mold, upgrades fire alarms/safety doors, fixes unsafe school drop-off and pick-up zones, makes schools disabled-accessible, improves air quality, energy efficiency and installs security systems to protect our children.

Body (a bullet list)

1. Limits on Proposition S Spending

- a. Limit the spending of Proposition S bond funds to educational facilities projects listed in Prop S.
- b. No mention of limits on Prop S spending

2. Equitable Distribution of Proposition S Funds

- a. Distribute Prop S bond funds equitably among all the projects listed in Proposition S so that no school is denied a fair share of funds, including Crawford High School, Mann Middle school and other schools in the Crawford cluster.
- b. No mention of equitable distribution of Prop S funds

3. Stadium Lights

- a. Install stadium lights at the Crawford High School football field in order to provide students at this school with athletic facilities similar to other high schools in the district.
- b. Remove stadium lights from plans for the Crawford High School football field because of expected negative impacts to the surrounding residential neighborhood homes from noise, light pollution, security issues, traffic and parking congestion to the surrounding residential homes.
- c. Seriously consider removing stadium lights from plans for the Crawford High School football field because of expected negative impacts from noise,

light pollution, security issues, traffic and parking congestion.

- c. No mention of stadium lights

4. Working with Residents to Minimize Impacts on the Community

- a. Continue working with the community to minimize expected negative impacts from facilities upgrades including noise, security issues, traffic and parking congestion to the surrounding residential homes.
- b. No mention of working with residents

5. Working with Other Urban Communities to Minimize Impacts

- a. Continue working with the communities around all urban high schools to minimize expected negative impacts from facilities upgrades, including noise, security issues, traffic and parking congestion to the surrounding residential homes.
- b. No mention of working with other communities

Delivering the Newsletter

The ECCC Board of Directors truly appreciates all our community Block Captains who every month deliver the newsletter to your door. Unfortunately, we have received complaints that some of the newsletters **are being put in the mail box.** This is a big no-no – so we would ask that you please **ONLY** place the newsletter on the porch or by the front door. As you know this is a federal offense and none of us to get into trouble! Thanks again for your cooperation.

March is Election Time at the ECCC

The ECCC currently has five very overworked community members and is desperately in need of new Board members. If you have been thinking of volunteering in the community now is the time to come and help us out. Due to work restrictions, Carl Luster is only coming to the Board and community meetings and is unable to undertake the numerous other hats he wears for the ECCC. Maurice Rios has stepped up to maintain the e-mail list and get our Monday morning notices out to you about what is going on in the community and surrounding areas. Jan Riley will continue to write the newsletter, arrange guest speakers, etc., etc.

If you care about your community, please give up a few hours per month to help us out. You really can play an important part in shaping the future of this great community of ours by joining the ECCC Board of Directors. Please don't take the attitude that someone else will do it for you. Community does count and with the way the world is shaping up, it will become even more important. Schools, crime, redevelopment are just a few of the important issues going on.

The ECCC Board is attempting to raise sufficient funds for a community sign. Did you know the ECCC is the only community around here that does not have one! Unfortunately, as with everything else, this is a very expensive proposition – probably in the \$150,000 to \$200,000 range. The ECCC would also like to development its own independent web site – again we need help and commitment from the community. We have our own

Blog spot (a job very well done by Carl), but we would also like to have our very own ECCC community Facebook page. Anyone interested?

The Board of Directors Elections will be held at the community meeting on **Thursday March 15, 2012**. Any active member of the ECCC is eligible for election to the Board. **You can nominate yourself or a neighbor** by e-mail to ECCC@cox.net or by writing to the El Cerrito Community Council at P.O. Box 151268, San Diego, CA 92175-1268. Please, include your street in El Cerrito and an e-mail or phone contact. **Nominations will also be accepted at the February 16th community meeting or from the floor during the election on March 17.**

An **active member** of the ECCC is a resident, property owner, business owner or representative who has attended at least 1 general community meeting in the previous 12 months. By attending the next ECCC meeting on Thursday February 16th, you will meet the requirements of membership & attendance.

The geographic area of interest for the ECCC is within the City of San Diego bordered by 54th/Collwood Street (East side only); University Avenue (North side only); College Avenue (West side only); and south of Baja Canyon (The canyon South of Baja Drive). We'd love to see a flood of applicants!!!

Update on Traffic Lights at College/Adams & Arosa

By: Cynthia R. Harris, Council Representative & Policy Advisor, Council District 7

Thank you for all your patience and particularly for working with Councilmember Emerald to stress to the Mayor's office & the Engineering Dept. the need to move this project forward expeditiously. Our office is regularly communicating w/Engineering to stay apprised of each step, as this is a top priority of the community and the Councilmember. Our office has received an update from Engineering & Capital Projects; according to engineering staff the status as of today is as follows:

"The awarding document has received the comptroller's certificate which will allow a limited Notice to Proceed (contractor can then order materials, establish staging areas, get subcontractors, field check the sites, and other such non-construction activity) to be issued by the GRC administrating staff. The document is now at Equal Opportunity Contracting. From there it goes to Purchasing & Contracting Department and the City Attorney's office for them to jointly award the contract which will then allow Field Division to issue a Notice to Proceed and start construction.

We should receive the limited NTP in a week or two so we can meet with the contractor and they can pursue preliminary activities short of actual construction. Then the actual NTP and start of construction should occur in a month or two. The construction would be completed three months after that." Associate Engineer Fernando Lasaga (619-533-7406, copied) is

Handling the project and may be reach for updates and more detailed information about the next steps: <http://www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd7/>.

Newsletter Donations

All donations, large and small are always welcome and appreciated. Donations received: Anonymous on Vale Street \$25 and from Cocoa, Bailey & Charlie on Redland Street \$20. You can make your donation to the P.O. Box # or use our PayPal link on the ECCC Blog at: <http://elcerritocommunitycouncil.blogspot.com/>

Free 2012 Income Tax Preparation February 4th Through April 17th, 2012

The College/Rolando Branch located at 6600 Montezuma Road on **Tuesday/Wednesdays from 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm and Thursdays from 9:30 am- 4:40 pm**. This is a walk in service provided by AARP for all clientele.

Catalytic Converter Series – County Wide:

Over an extended period of time there has been dozens of Catalytic Converter thefts county-wide. Mid-City Division has been especially hard hit with dozens of cases taken by TRU over several months time. In the last few months the thefts have slowed down in Mid City but they still continue sporadically. On December 24, 2011, at approximately 0600 hours, a major player in the series was arrested after a victim was altered to the theft of his Catalytic Converter from his Toyota truck as it was parked in front of his residence. Catalytic Converters are difficult to identify as they do not have serial numbers so the best way to arrest folks who steal them is to catch them in the act as in this recent act. If you see anyone fussing with the underside of a vehicle please call dispatch as suspicious activity.

Tantalizing Treats at the 2nd Annual



Sunday, April 15, 2012 from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

College Area, San Diego CA— Spend the afternoon indulging your culinary cravings as you take part in the tastiest event of the season! Discover the College Area through this self-guided culinary adventure. This year's 2nd Annual College Area Taste will be held on Sunday, April 15th, 2012 from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM and will feature your old, new and soon-to-be favorite restaurants. Food connoisseurs will enjoy over 25 restaurants on one afternoon in the urban neighborhood of the College Area. Spend the afternoon strolling through this diverse neighborhood with its charming storefronts, lively atmosphere and of course its wide array of tasty treats.

Indulge your taste buds with flavorful bites from tantalizing appetizers to desirable desserts, hearty dishes to America classics. Come prepared to please your appetite and get your nosh on! With samples created from the area's renowned chefs, you'll want to get your fill and even come back for more! Known for its assortment of dining, the College Area is the newest up and coming destination for foodies everywhere.

Tickets to the 2nd Annual College Area Taste are just \$25.00 in advance and \$30.00 on the day of the event. Proceeds benefit the College Area Business District in an effort to give each member business the ability to flourish. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit CollegeAreaBID.com or call

619.233.5008. Tickets are limited so purchase them soon to secure your ticket to this ultimate "taste". This year's College Area Taste promises to be every bite as good as last year – if not better!

CACC Needs a Website

The CACC is currently accepting proposals for development of a website to more broadly publicize its activities. If you or someone you know is interested in and qualified to do this work and available to begin immediately, please contact Rhea Kuhlman at finebks2@sbcglobal.net or 619-491-0664, for a copy of the Request for Proposals.



NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

Thursday, February 16, 2012

7:00pm to 8:30pm

Blessed Sacrament Parish Hall

(El Cajon Boulevard at El Cerrito Drive)

Guest Speakers

SDSU Assistant Professor Amy Schmitz Weiss

Topic: Mobile applications on smart phones and their uses in daily life for news and entertainment

Virginia Martin

Volunteer Publicity Co-Chair, Rolando Community Council

Community Vote: Letter to public officials about facilities plans for local schools

Local Area Meetings & Committee Groups

ECCC Meeting - Third Thursday at 7:00 pm, Parish Hall, Blessed Sacrament Church, El Cajon Boulevard & El Cerrito Drive

ECCC Board Meeting - First Thursday at 7:00 pm, Library, Blessed Sacrament School, El Cajon Boulevard & El Cerrito Drive

Eastern Area Communities Planning Committee - Second Tuesday 7:00 pm, Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 2725 55th St.

College Area Community Council - Second Wednesday at 7:00 pm, College/Rolando Library corner of Montezuma & Reservoir

College Area Project Review Committee - First Wednesday at 7:00 pm, College/Rolando Library - Corner of Montezuma & Reservoir

Crossroads Project Area Committee (PAC) - Fourth Thursday at 6:30 p.m. College Avenue Baptist Church, 3rd floor, Administration Bldg, 4747 College Ave.

PLEASE HELP US KEEP PRINTING THE NEWSLETTER THROUGH YOUR DONATIONS

I/we donate \$_____ to the printing of the El Cerrito Community Council Newsletter.

Name(s) or
Company Name (if corporate sponsor) _____ Address: _____

Phone #(s): _____

Do_____ Do Not_____ print our name(s) in the newsletter. Send donation to: ECCC, P.O. Box 151268, San Diego CA 92175-1268

Loud Parties or Disturbances Call: 619.531.2000

ECCC@cox.net

Jan Riley – Editor – 619.287.2460

El Cerrito Community Council, P.O. Box 151268, San Diego, CA 92175-1268. (ECCC@ cox.net) 619-287-2460